

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MARTIN 00043 202337Z
ACTION PM-05

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FM AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE
TO COMSECONDFLT PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2821

C O N F I D E N T I A L MARTINIQUE 0043

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: OCLR
SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISITS OF AINSWORTH, TATTNALL AND MILLER TO
MARTINIQUE CONSULAR DISTRICT

REF: COMSECONDFLT NO3128

1. COMSECONDFLT HAS PROPOSED THREE SHIP VISITS TO CONSULATE'S DISTRICT WITHIN PERIOD OF 11 DAYS. VISIT OF AINSWORTH TO POINTE-A-PITRE (GUADELOUPE) AND TATTNALL TO FORT-DE-FRANCE WOULD ACTUALLY COINCIDE, WHILE THOSE OF TATTNALL AND MILLER TO FORT-DE-FRANCE WOULD FOLLOW ONE ANOTHER BY FIVE DAYS. POST HAS APPROACHED APPROPRIATE LOCAL AUTHORITIES REGARDING PROPOSED SHIP VISITS AND HAS RECEIVED RESPONSE FROM NAVAL COMMANDANT CLAUDE GUIGUE WHO HAS RESPONSIBILITY FRENCH ANTILLES. RESPONSE OF COMMANDER IS TO DISCOURAGE TWO VISITS TO FORT-DE-FRANCE SCHEDULED SO CLOSELY TOGETHER. HE WOULD PREFER, IF THERE MUST BE TWO VISITS, THAT THEY COINCIDE. WITH REFERENCE TO GUADELOUPE, HE ADVISED POST THAT HE IS AWAITING RESPONSE FROM HIS COMMANDER THERE AND WILL SO ADVISE IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT OF THAT INFORMATION. GIVEN FACT THAT MARTINIQUE AND GUADELOUPE ARE COVERED UNDER SEPARATE DEPARTMENTS OF FRANCE, POST ALSO CONTACTED PREFETS OF GUADELOUPE AND MARTINIQUE AND IS AWAITING RESPONSE FROM THEM. WITH REGARD TO POLITICAL ASSESSMENT, WE SHALL AWAIT THE VIEWS OF THE PREFET. HOWEVER, IN THE MEANTIME CONTACTS WITH SENATORS AND MAYOR OF FORT-DE-FRANCE INDICATE THEY FORESEE NO POLITICAL PROBLEM.

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2. ASIDE FROM OTHER CONSIDERATIONS WE MAY WISH TO CRANK IN AFTER RECEIVING VIEWS OF PREFETS, THE CONSULATE VIEWS THESE VISITS AS IMPORTANT AND WELCOMES THEM. HOWEVER, WE ARE A TWO-OFFICER POST WITH A SMALL STAFF AND A RELATIVELY HEAVY AND STEADY CONSULAR WORKLOAD. WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE DEGREE OF EFFECTIVENESS WITH WHICH WE CAN MANAGE THREE SIZABLE SHIP VISITS AT APPROXIMATELY

THE SAME TIME, TWO OF WHICH WOULD BE OVER 100 MILES APART. OF
COURSE, IF THE DEPARTMENT AND THE NAVY DEEM THE VISITS DESIRABLE,
WE WILL DO OUR UTMOST.

3. POST WILL FORWARD FRENCH RESPONSE AND OUR FULL ASSESSMENT ASAP.
ROBINSON

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NNN

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